



## Neptune Theatre announces *Billy Elliot the Musical* as 2019-2020 season-ending musical and one-of-a-kind Billy Boot Camp to prepare actors

**August 8, 2018 (Halifax, NS)** – Today, Neptune Theatre announced that the award-winning Broadway hit *Billy Elliot the Musical* will be the company's 2019-2020 season-ending musical. Neptune also announced the ground-breaking "boot camp"-style school that will guide young actors through the audition process, training and preparing them for the role of a lifetime.

Because of the prominence and intensity of the title role, the auditions and training process must start much earlier than an ordinary show. Auditions will start this October in Halifax and video auditions will also be accepted. *Billy Elliot the Musical* will run on Neptune Theatre's Fountain Hall from April 14th – June 7th, 2020. Artistic Director Jeremy Webb is building on the success of *MAMMA MIA!* by reuniting the creative team for the record-breaking musical. Choreographer Ray Hogg and music director Paul De Gurse will join Webb, who will direct the musical.

"It is unconventional to announce a show nearly two years in advance, but at Neptune we are striving every day to break the mould and be progressive," says Webb. "This announcement is worthy of breaking tradition and will give young actors and audiences something to look forward to in 2020."

Set in working-class England, young Billy dreams of trading in his boxing gloves for ballet slippers, but his widowed father cannot understand his passion. This heartfelt and entertaining musical, by recording legend Elton John, makes audiences laugh, cry, and beam with joy.

Neptune will now start the challenging task of finding young actors with the necessary singing, dancing and acting experience to take on the title role. The show also calls for a group of young girls and Billy's best friend Michael. Neptune wants to build capacity in the local performing arts community through a Billy Boot Camp. Although participants will not be guaranteed a role in the production, involvement in the process will better position them to audition for a part. The first phase of Billy Boot Camp is intended to provide local youngsters with intensive training and direction to support them in auditioning. The second phase is to identify and develop young cast members, especially the actors who will perform the title role.

Details for auditions and Billy Boot Camp can be found here: [www.neptunetheatre.com/billy](http://www.neptunetheatre.com/billy)

Book and lyrics are by Lee Hall. Music is by Elton John and is originally directed by Stephen Daldry. Orchestrations by Michael Koch. Executive Producers of the original production are Angelia Morrison and David Furnish; Producers are Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Jon Finn, Sally Greene. Originally presented in London by Universal Stage Productions, Working Title Films, and Old Vic Productions, in association with Tiger Aspect. Based on Universal Pictures/Studio Canal Film.

Neptune Theatre kicked off its 56<sup>th</sup> season with the summer production *Argyle Street Kitchen Party*. The remainder of the new season has been announced and subscriptions and single tickets are available for purchase. Located at 1593 Argyle Street, Neptune boasts two newly renovated stages: Fountain Hall and the Scotiabank Stage, plus a year-round Theatre School. Find out more about [Neptune Theatre](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube channel NeptuneHFX](#).

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